

August 2015

ECA Bulletin

Local Concerns. National Impact



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SECRETARY MONIZ, EM ASSISTANT SECRETARY REGALBUTO, AND REPS. SIMPSON AND FLEISCHMANN TO SPEAK AT DOE NATIONAL CLEANUP WORKSHOP



Secretary Ernest Moniz



Rep. Mike Simpson



Rep. Chuck Fleischmann

The Department of Energy (DOE), in cooperation with ECA and the Energy Facility Contractors Group (EFCOG) will hold the first DOE National Cleanup Workshop on September 29-30 in the

Washington, D.C. area at the Key Bridge Marriott located in Arlington, VA.

Secretary Ernest Moniz will address the attendees at the workshop along with DOE's new Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management (EM), Dr. Monica Regalbuto. Dr. Regalbuto will outline her vision and priorities for leading the EM program going forward. Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID) will also give remarks regarding his work as Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on

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DR. REGALBUTO CONFIRMED

Dr. Monica Regalbuto was confirmed as the new Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management on August 5. The position has been vacant since Ines Triay resigned in 2011. Regalbuto becomes responsible for the safe cleanup of the environmental legacy brought about from five decades of nuclear weapons development and nuclear energy research. A DOE press release notes that she will work closely with communities that

have partnered with DOE and its predecessor agencies for many decades.

"Having served in both the Office of Environmental Management and the Office of Nuclear Energy, Monica is more



Dr. Monica Regalbuto

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Executive Committee



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ECA COMMENTS ON MANHATTAN PROJECT PARK DRAFT MOA



Communities and other stakeholders have been submitting comments in response to the draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the DOE and National Park Service (NPS) that was released at the end of July. The MOA, once signed later this fall, will make the beginning of formal operations for the Manhattan Project National Historical Park (Park). ECA also submitted comments on the MOA which were due on August 28.

ECA will continue to be very supportive of NPS and DOE as they take their next steps in implementing the Park. Overall, ECA expressed support of the MOA as presented, but suggested a number of improvements including:

- ensuring all eligible sites laid out in the authorizing law are included under this MOA;
- ensuring communications with local governments and community groups;
- making clear that access to historical properties or documents will not be impaired; and,

- commitments to preserving historic resources and landscapes surrounding Park facilities.

“We appreciate the effort made in the MOA to delineate the critical role of NPS and DOE leaders assigned to work at each of the Park sites,” ECA Chairman Chuck Smith said in the letter. “We urge the agencies to ensure these leaders develop (or maintain) strong working relationships and two-way communication with local governments and community members. We also urge the agencies give their site leaders the authority and responsibility to implement the National Park.”

Impacted communities and stakeholders, particularly local convention and tourism officials, have begun holding regular coordinating meetings. ECA will continue to aid interested groups and communities in coordinating preparations for the exciting new Park. For more information on that please feel free to contact Devon@energyca.org.

GUEST OPINION: SAY ‘YES’ TO POWERING IDAHO’S FUTURE AT INL



Mayor Rebecca Casper

For months I have watched with growing concern as some former Idaho governors and the attorney general have quibbled over the future of nuclear research in Idaho. There is nothing positive about this power struggle. While they talk, Idaho’s National Laboratory is put at risk. I can only conclude that they do not

understand. Perhaps Eastern Idaho can lend some perspective.

The proposed spent-fuel research would be conducted by the Idaho National Laboratory, a first-rate national laboratory that attracts the best and brightest researchers, scientists and engineers from around the world. This research involves examining a small quantity of spent nuclear fuel.

Research on spent fuel samples could mean up to \$20 million annually for the Idaho economy. Here

is reality: If this research is not conducted at INL, it will be conducted somewhere else, likely at a lab in Oak Ridge, Tenn. That is a lot of jobs and economic activity we may never see.

More significantly, conducting the research here at the nation’s “Lead Nuclear Lab” would cement the status of INL, and Idaho, as an international leadership hub for clean energy technology. Sending the research elsewhere places our lab’s leadership role at risk. It would be naive to think that other laboratories throughout this nation don’t covet our title of “Lead” Nuclear Lab. It would be foolish to forfeit this asset.

Some argue not to allow this fuel into Idaho. They’ve employed decades-old arguments once successfully used to encourage rigorous cleanup of nuclear waste in the 1990s. But to be clear: today’s discussion is not about storage; it is about research.

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WIPP REOPENING DELAYED

In late July, DOE announced that plans to reopen the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) had been put on hold. WIPP, which was originally supposed to begin accepting waste again in March 2016, has been closed since February 2014. Waste that was supposed to be held there is now being stored in a facility in Andrews County, TX. In a statement, DOE officials blamed the delay on unanticipated issues, identification of additional activities that need to be added to the project schedule, and various safety concerns.

“When we announced the recovery plan last September, we identified (March 2016) as a target date,” said Frank Marcinowski, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Waste Management, at a town hall meeting in Carlsbad. “That was based on the assumption that we believed it could be done safely. Right now we don’t believe the beginning of waste emplacement operations on that date is in anyone’s best interests.”

“Announcing a deadline and then not meeting it is harmful to the critical mission of cleaning up the nation’s transuranic waste,” Carlsbad Mayor Dale Janeway said at the town hall, according to the [Albuquerque Journal](#).

“We certainly recognize that some of these delays are due to safety concerns and respect the need for caution in these occurrences,” Janeway said, “but it would not be fair to say the entire delay is due to safety. There were also delays caused by additional human error and by poorly developed procedural overlaps.”

Secretary Moniz had touted the March 2016 reopening a year ago when he visited Carlsbad. The Government Accountability Office has been investigating the situation at WIPP and will be releasing a full report before the end of the year.

DOE’s full statement on the delay can be read below:

While the WIPP recovery program continues to make significant progress, the original target date of March 2016 for resuming waste emplacement operations is no longer viable due to a variety of unanticipated issues. Over the past several months

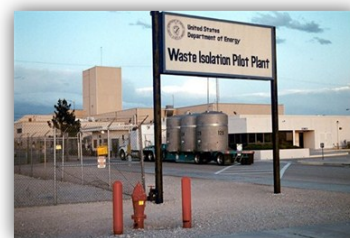
a number of additional activities have been identified that need to be added to the project schedule, including safety related activities that are required to be completed prior to resumption of operation.

Key issues impacting the recovery schedule include the need to address the findings and recommendations from the Accident Investigation Boards, implement DOE’s more rigorous standards for site specific Documented Safety Analyses, and resolve problems with the contractor’s oversight of the procurement and quality assurance processes for the manufacture and delivery of the Interim Ventilation System. The Department is actively engaged with the contractor to address these issues.

“We are disappointed that we will not meet the original target date for beginning waste emplacement, but do not want to lose sight of the substantial progress that has been made in the recovery of the WIPP site, including great strides in mine stabilization, radiological risk mitigation and the closure of Panel 6 and Panel 7 Room 7, all of which have significantly increased safety in the underground,” said Acting Carlsbad Field Office Manager Dana Bryson.

The Department recently completed a review of all WIPP recovery activities to determine if there were efficiencies that could be found to safely maintain the current schedule. Following that review, it was determined that the schedule for resuming operations must be updated. The Department is in the process of addressing these issues and anticipates having a revised cost and schedule plan this fall.

“The Department is committed to resuming operations at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant as soon as it is safe to do so. In light of the safety-related activities that must be completed before waste emplacement begins, a new target date for the re-start of waste emplacement operations in 2016 must be established. We will continue to keep the public informed about our recovery activities,” said Bryson.





Legislative Update

Congress returns to DC on September 8 with only limited time before the start of the new fiscal year (FY). Though the appropriations process has gone farther than it has in the last few years, the White House has promised to veto all the spending bills in their current form and congressional Republicans have thus far refused to negotiate lifting budget cap levels. The main sticking point has been whether defense and non-defense spending should be increased by the same amount – Democrats say yes while Republicans have only supported measures to circumvent spending caps for the Pentagon. Given those unresolved disagreements, a continuing resolution (CR) funding the government through the end of the calendar year is all but certain.

A continuing resolution (CR) funding the government through the end of the calendar year is all but certain.

Spending Battles Ahead

[Defense News](#) reports, however, that some in Congress have begun considering a full year CR, which would fund the government at FY 2015 levels. This would not only freeze spending below requested levels, but also prevent the DOE, DOD, the National Park Service (NPS), and every government agency from carrying out certain programs, issuing new contracts, or hiring new employees. For more on FY 2015 spending levels, see the chart on page 9.

Short-term CRs have become the norm in recent years and the White House has already sent its “wish list” of CR anomalies to the Hill. Last year’s CR was relatively clean with only about two dozen spending anomalies, one of which allowed continued funding for recovery efforts at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). This year’s requests

do not mention WIPP. Aides to House Appropriations Chairman Harold Rogers (R-KY) have said they hope to keep any CR as clean and free of riders as possible.

Conventional wisdom in DC suggests that Congress will eschew a troublesome full year CR in favor of an omnibus spending bill either later this year or early next year. This is contingent on Congress and the White House being able to work out a last minute deal, which may lead to spending close to the levels passed by House and Senate

appropriations bills. The President has repeatedly urged congressional leaders to negotiate another budget deal.

Meanwhile, [Politico](#) is reporting that the debt ceiling will be hit in December. If the spending impasse is not solved by then, having to raising the debt limit to allow the U.S. government to avoid default may sour Congress on raising spending caps.

NDAA Stalled for Now

Congressional Armed Services committee leaders had hoped to pass the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) before the August recess. Disagreements over military personnel benefits stalled negotiations, however, over the bill that also authorizes DOE’s national security programs. Congressional leaders are hoping to pass a compromise version during their packed September session, but the White has threatened to veto the bill over a number of policy disagreements. Look for the NDAA to also be on Congress’ agenda throughout the fall.

(Continued from page 2)

Guest Opinion: Say 'Yes' to powering Idaho's future at INL

The small amount of spent fuel needed to conduct the research is not waste. It is educational material. No one intends to store it; they intend to study it.

An emphasis on waste in this discussion fundamentally misunderstands INL's research role and truly undervalues it. Cold-war-era waste cleanup and present-day laboratory research are vastly different. INL's research mission was firmly established when DOE separated INL from cleanup in 2005. To move forward, Idaho must follow the lead of other labs like PNNL, which runs its operations separately from Hanford. PNNL's research is not intertwined with the cleanup milestones of Hanford. Likewise, we should let INL flourish responsibly and formally delink INL's research mission from the site's cleanup responsibilities. Idaho's outdated settlement

"The small amount of spent fuel needed to conduct the research is not waste. It is educational material. No one intends to store it; they intend to study it." - Mayor Rebecca Casper

intertwines these missions and thereby hinders the blossoming of a robust, tech-based economy in Idaho.

Perhaps some don't understand that all kinds of energy technologies are researched at the Lab — biomass, wind, batteries, geothermal, etc. Perhaps they don't understand that the lab's research mission will encourage the responsible stewardship of our environment and natural resources. Maybe they do not see how Idaho will benefit from more

well-paying careers. Perhaps they do not appreciate the significance of global energy leadership.

The clock is ticking. Idaho officials know that the DOE must make a decision about the research within the next 30 days. Now is the time

for informed state leaders to rise above the politics and say "Yes" to this vital research. "Yes" to clean energy research funding. "Yes" to strengthening our role as a global energy innovation hub. "Yes" to powering Idaho's future.

Rebecca Casper is the mayor of Idaho Falls and a member of the LINE2.0 Commission.

SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL SHIPMENTS TO IDAHO NATIONAL LABORATORY INCREASINGLY UNLIKELY

The future of nuclear research in Idaho is becoming increasingly unclear due to a prolonged standoff between Governor Butch Otter and Attorney General Lawrence Wasden concerning the status of two shipments of commercial spent nuclear fuel (SNF). The commercial SNF was originally intended to be shipped to the Idaho National Laboratory for testing. However, it is now expected to be sent to a different national laboratory, most likely Oak Ridge National Lab (ORNL).

The missed opportunity could cost the state up to \$10-20 million per year in federal research money for INL through the end of the decade, according to lab officials. Proponents of the shipment also argue

that the standoff could risk the reputation of INL and damage prospects for future federal research projects. Further, uncertainty may hurt INL's ability to attract the nation's top scientists. The Lab is the state's fifth largest employer and this ongoing dispute may deter additional talent from moving to the state.

Governor Butch Otter's Leadership in Nuclear Energy (LINE) Commission 2.0 released a letter on August 10, which added to concerns regarding the shipments' status. The letter establishes a two-month deadline for the state to approve one of two shipments and argues in favor of shipments to the

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Secretary Moniz, EM Assistant Secretary Regalbuto and Reps. Simpson and Fleischmann to Speak at DOE National Cleanup Workshop

Energy and Water Development. Rep. Chuck Fleischmann, Nuclear Cleanup Caucus Chair, will also address attendees on his efforts in Congress.

The workshop will bring together senior DOE executives, officials from DOE sites, industry executives, and other stakeholders to discuss EM's progress in the cleanup of the environmental legacy

of the nation's Manhattan Project and Cold War nuclear weapons program.

Topics to be discussed include major cleanup successes planned over the next two years, improving contract and project management, efforts to develop new cleanup technologies, and more.

As the largest environmental cleanup program in the world, EM has been charged with the responsibility of cleaning up 107 sites across the country, totaling a combined area equal to that of Rhode Island and Delaware.

For more information regarding registration, the agenda, and hotel reservations, please visit: www.cleanupworkshop.com.

RALPH HOLLAND NAMED DIRECTOR OF EM CONSOLIDATED BUSINESS CENTER



Ralph Holland

Ralph Holland has been named director of the Environmental Management (EM) Consolidated Business Center in Cincinnati, OH.

Holland served as EMBC's deputy director, overseeing approximately 175 federal staff at 15 DOE sites with an annual budget exceeding \$1 billion.

With over 20 years of DOE experience, Holland will be responsible for overseeing the consolidated business services that EMBC provides to EM. These consolidated business services include

financial management, cost estimating, project management, human resources, contracting and acquisitions, intergovernmental communications, legal services, property and records management, and technical services.

Holland is expected to speak and participate at the DOE National Cleanup Workshop in September at the Key Bridge Marriott.

Holland holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in management from Antioch University and an unlimited warrant as a U.S. contracting officer. He is certified as a Level III Acquisition Professional.

ECA looks forward to working with him at EMBC.



(Continued from page 1)

Dr. Regalbuto Confirmed

than ready for her new role at the Department," said Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz in a statement. "Her hands-on experience in all aspects of nuclear waste cleanup and her tenure as an Argonne National Lab scientist have prepared her for the position of Assistant Secretary for Environmental

Management. I thank the Senate for approving Monica's nomination, and look forward to continuing to work with her on some of the most complex challenges facing the Department."

This is the second time Dr. Regalbuto has been nominated for the position; the Senate failed to vote on her confirmation last year. ECA would like to welcome Dr. Regalbuto to her new position and looks forward to working with her.



DOE NATIONAL CLEANUP WORKSHOP AGENDA

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2015

8:00 AM – 8:15 AM

Welcome and Opening Remarks

8:15 AM – 8:45 AM

Hon. Ernest Moniz, Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy

8:45 AM – 9:15 AM

Rep. Chuck Fleischmann, Chair, House Nuclear Cleanup Caucus

9:15 AM – 9:45 AM

Dr. Monica Regalbuto, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management

9:45 AM – 10:15 AM

Coffee Break

10:15 AM – 12:00 PM

Charting the Course for Major EM Successes in 2016-2017

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch

1:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Featured Speaker: David Klaus, Deputy Under Secretary for Management and Performance

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Roundtable: Improving Acquisitions and Contract Management for Our Energy Communities

2:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Coffee Break

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

A Big Step Increase in the EM Technology Development Program

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Managing Large Capital Projects at DOE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

EM --The Next Five Years

10:15 AM – 10:45 AM

Rep. Mike Simpson

10:45 AM – 11:00 AM

Coffee Break

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Planning for and Driving Down Deferred Maintenance and Excess DOE Facilities

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch

1:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Featured Speaker: Mary Louise Wagner, Senior Policy Advisor, DOE (invited)

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Resuming Operations at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant and the National TRU Program

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

DOE-EM Acquisition Outlook and Challenges



Confirmed Speakers

Dr. Ernest Moniz, *Secretary, Department of Energy*

David Klaus, *Deputy Under Secretary of Energy for the Office of Management and Performance, DOE*

Dr. Monica Regalbuto, *Assistant Secretary of Energy for the Office of Environmental Management, DOE*

Mark Whitney, *Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Environmental Management, DOE*

Kenneth Picha, *Deputy Assistant Secretary for Tank Waste & Nuclear Material, DOE-EM*

Frank Marcinowski, *Deputy Assistant Secretary for Waste Management, DOE-EM*

Jack Surash, *Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Project Management, DOE-EM*

Mark Gilbertson, *Deputy Assistant Secretary for Site Restoration, DOE-EM*

Representative Chuck Fleischmann (R-Tenn.), *Chairman of the House Nuclear Cleanup Caucus*

Loraine Heckenberg, *Staff Assistant, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development*

Jane Hedges, *Nuclear Waste Program Manager, Washington State Department of Ecology*

Terry Michalske, *Director, Savannah River National Laboratory*

Jim Blankenhorn, *WIPP Recovery Manager, Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC*

Frank Sheppard, *Project Manager, Parsons-SWPF*

David Trimble, *Director of Natural Resources, Government Accountability Office*

John Ciucci, *President, CH2M Hill Plateau Remediation Co.*

Scott Sax, *President Washington Closure Hanford*

Ken Rueter, *President, URS-CH2M Oak Ridge LLC (UCOR)*

Peggy McCullough, *Project Manager-WTP, Bechtel National*

Robert Cochran, *President, CB&I Federal Services*

William Morrison, *President, Energy Solutions Government Group*

Michael Graham, *Principal Vice President, Bechtel National*

Dyan Foss, *Global Managing Director for Nuclear, CH2M*

John Hale, *Director, DOE Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization*

Kevin Smith, *Manager, Office of River Protection, DOE-EM*

Jack Craig, *Manager, Savannah River Operations Office, DOE-EM*

Sue Cange, *Manager, Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management, DOE-EM*

Stacy Charboneau, *Manager, Richland Operations Office, DOE-EM*

Jack Zimmerman, *Deputy Manager for the Idaho Cleanup Project, DOE Idaho Operations Office*

Gerald Boyd, *Vice President, Stoller Newport News Nuclear; Member, Secretary of Energy Advisory Board Task Force on EM Technology Development*

Bill Murphie, *Manager, Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office, DOE-EM*

Ralph Holland, *Director, EM Consolidated Business Center*

Mayor Steve Young, *Kennewick, WA, ECA Vice-Chair*

Seth Kirshenberg, *Executive Director, Energy Communities Alliance*

Department of Energy FY 2016 Budget*				
Appropriation	FY 2015 Enacted (\$)	FY 2016 Request (\$)	House FY 2016 Bill (\$)	Senate FY 2016 Bill (\$)
Department of Energy	27,916,797,000	30,527,136,000	29,012,069,000	29,303,173,000
Weapons Activities	8,186,657,000	8,846,948,000	8,713,000,000	8,882,364,000
Total NNSA Funding	11,407,295,000	12,565,400,000	12,329,000,000	12,263,276,000
Defense Environmental Cleanup	5,000,000,000	5,055,550,000	5,055,550,000	5,180,000,000
Non-Defense Environmental Cleanup	246,000,000	220,185,000	229,193,000	244,000,000
Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund	625,000,000	542,289,000	625,000,000	614,000,000
Total EM Funding	5,861,017,000	5,818,024,000	5,909,743,000	6,038,000,000
Carlsbad/WIPP	320,000,000	243,318,000	285,584,000	243,318,000
Hanford/Richland	941,000,000	843,837,000	922,711,000	922,590,000
Idaho National Laboratory	380,203,000	360,783,000	390,783,000	360,783,000
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	1,366,000	1,366,000	1,366,000	1,366,000
Los Alamos National Laboratory	185,000,000	188,625,000	180,000,000	188,625,000
Oak Ridge Reservation	223,050,000	177,353,000	197,953,000	223,050,000
Office of River Protection	1,212,000,000	1,414,000,000	1,268,000,000	1,414,000,000
Nevada NNSA Site	64,851,000	62,385,000	62,385,000	62,385,000
Paducah	207,215,000	168,652,000	193,652,000	199,925,000
Portsmouth	214,024,000	165,417,000	213,417,000	165,417,000
Sandia National Laboratory	2,801,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Savannah River Site	1,121,307,000	1,208,421,000	1,191,543,000	1,208,421,000
Nuclear Energy	833,500,000	907,574,000	936,161,000	950,161,000
Waste Disposal (Yucca)	---	---	150,000,000	---
Legacy Management	171,980,000	167,180,000	167,180,000	167,180,000

*Figures in these charts are based on figures reported by the Office of Budget and Management, Congressional Budget Office, and Senate and House Appropriations Committees. Any discrepancies are based on differences in their accounting methods.

(Continued from page 5)

Spent Nuclear Fuel Shipments to Idaho National Laboratory Increasingly Unlikely

lab. Missing this deadline means shipments will be sent to ORNL.

The delay in the shipment is being caused by concerns over the waste storage. Attorney General Wasden is refusing to allow waste into Idaho, arguing that DOE is out of compliance with the 1995 Settlement Agreement which governs nuclear waste cleanup in Idaho. Wasden warns that waste should not be sent to the state until the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit (IWTU) is up and running.

A few months ago, DOE requested to send one shipment of commercial spent nuclear fuel from

Byron Nuclear Generating Station by June, and a second in January 2016 from North Anna Nuclear Generating Station. The North Anna shipment is tethered to a larger future research project on fuel storage that, if approved, would require a 20 metric ton shipment of spent fuel.

A waiver to allow in the SNF shipments requires the signatures from the governor and attorney general. In a recent statement to the press, Gov. Otter said he disagreed with the attorney general over the need to make IWTU operational before allowing shipments and articulates his support for the long-term mission of INL as the leading lab for nuclear research.

Although the future of project remains unresolved, Wasden and Otter remain committed to keeping the lines of communication open and are willing to resolve the issue.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIE PREACHER



Willie Preacher passed away on Sunday, August 23 in Blackfoot, Idaho. He was surrounded by friends and family.

Preacher was born on September 28, 1952 in Blackfoot to Wilson and Irene Preacher. He grew up in the area with two brothers and two sisters. He graduated from Blackfoot High School in 1970 and took classes at the University of Idaho until he started working as an operator at the Idaho Chemical Processing Plant in 1973. He then worked at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (now the Idaho National Laboratory) until 1997. Preacher was later hired by The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes as a liaison with DOE. He became director of the Tribal DOE program where he

served on a number of committees working on nuclear waste transportation and other energy issues.

Preacher was also known for his talent for art and developed his drawing and oil painting skills throughout his life. He was also a skilled pool player and loved to hunt, fish, and golf. He is survived by a brother, sister, and numerous nieces and nephews.

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COMMENT PERIOD BEGINS ON NRC DRAFT SUPPLEMENT TO YUCCA MOUNTAIN EIS

FINDINGS SAY GROUNDWATER IMPACTS WOULD BE “SMALL”

This month, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued a draft [environmental impact statement](#) (EIS) supplement looking at the potential environmental impacts on groundwater and potential groundwater discharges from a permanent repository for spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste at Yucca Mountain. The supplement, a follow-on to DOE EISs prepared in 2002 and 2008, evaluates the potential radiological and non-radiological impacts—over a one million year period—on the aquifer environment, soils, ecology, and public health, as well as the potential for disproportionate impacts on minority or low-income populations. NRC staff concludes that, “all of the impacts on the resources evaluated in this supplement would be small.”

The NRC is now seeking public comment on the supplement. NRC staff will host four public meetings, including two in Nevada:

- **Thursday, September 3, 2015**
3:00 – 5:00 pm Eastern
NRC Headquarters
One White Flint North, First Floor Commission Hearing Room
1555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852
- **Tuesday, September 15, 2015**
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Pacific
Embassy Suites Convention Center
3600 Paradise Rd.
Las Vegas, NV 89169

- **Thursday, September 17, 2015**
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Pacific
Amargosa Community Center
821 E. Amargosa Farm Road
Amargosa Valley, NV 89020.
- **Thursday, October 15, 2015**
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm Eastern
Public meeting via conference call (call-in details will be posted on the NRC webpage)

At the meetings in Nevada, the NRC staff will host informal discussions during an open house for one hour prior to the meeting start time. Open houses will begin at 6:00 p.m. Pacific Time.

Comments can also be submitted electronically or by mail:

Federal Rulemaking Web site: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2015-0051.

Mail comments to: Cindy Bladey, Office of Administration, Mail Stop: OWFN-12-H08, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

Comments on the supplement should be submitted by October 20, 2015, to ensure consideration.

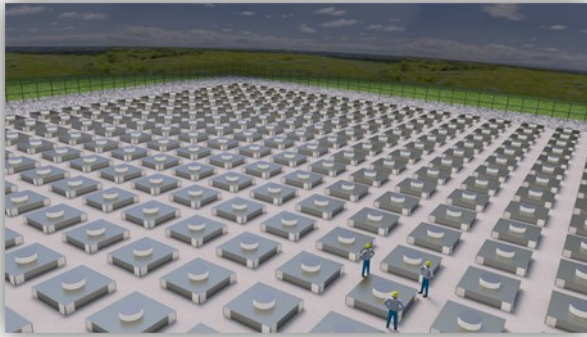
See the NRC Notice in the Federal Register [here](#).

NRC Press Release can be found [here](#).



Check out Daughters of Hanford, a project that highlights women's perspectives of the Hanford nuclear site. The project offers a cross-section of politicians, leaders, and environmental cleanup advocates - all women who were part of history and the future talent putting their minds on the nuclear site's toughest problems. More information [here](#).

HOLTEC INTENDS TO LICENSE ELEA INTERIM STORAGE FACILITY



ELEA and Holtec International Storage Facility for 75,000 Metric Tons Uranium Occupies merely 32 Acres

On August 3, Holtec International filed its Notice of Intent to License the Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance (ELEA) Interim Storage facility with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. As stated in the letter, the proposed site is "well investigated" and only about 12 miles from the WIPP facility." In addition, Holtec notes, "We are pleased to observe that the prerequisites for a consent-based facility envisioned by DOE are fully met by the proposed ELEA facility which enjoys overwhelming support of the local community and a strong endorsement of the State's Governor. Please find a copy of the letter [here](#).

This move comes on the heels of the signing of a memorandum of agreement between Holtec and ELEA in

April. That agreement covered the design, licensing, construction, and operation of the facility. According to a July [World Nuclear News](#) article, a license may be issued in January 2019 with construction to begin in April 2019. Operation of the facility could begin a year after that.

PETERS NAMED NEW DIRECTOR OF INL

Beginning on October 1, Dr. Mark Peters will take over as director of the [Idaho National Laboratory](#) (INL) in Idaho Falls.

Peters previously served as associate director of INL's Energy and Global Security Directorate since November of 2009 and is a recognized expert in nuclear fuel cycle technologies and nuclear waste management. Peters has testified before Congress on numerous occasions, advised lawmakers on crafting policies for nuclear fuel cycles, nonproliferation and nuclear waste disposal, and has recently been named as a Fellow for the American Nuclear Society, a prestigious honor given by the society. He also served as former associate director at the Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois.

Peters earned his doctorate in geophysical sciences from the University of Chicago and his bachelor's degree in geology from Auburn University. He has also received extensive management and leadership education and training, including completion of the Strategic Laboratory Leadership Program at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

ECA looks forward to working with Dr. Peters in his new role.



Dr. Mark Peters

JOYCE CONNERY, BRUCE HAMILTON CONFIRMED TO DNFSB BOARD



Joyce Connery will become Chair of the Defense Nuclear Waste Facilities Board (DNFSB) after being confirmed by the Senate earlier this month. Connery has worked on nuclear policy for most of her career. She previously served in the White House as Director of Nuclear Energy Policy within the Office of International Economics on the National Security Council (NSC) since 2012.



Bruce Hamilton will join DNFSB as member. Hamilton brings years of experience in the U.S. Navy. He recently served as a consultant to the nuclear industry, a role he has held since 2013. Hamilton also has years working in the private sector, including as President of Fuelco LLC from 2009 to 2013.

ECA looks forward to working with Connery and Hamilton in their new roles. ECA also looks forward to Connery and Hamilton's participation during the DOE National Cleanup Workshop scheduled to take place in September.

DNFSB REPORT REVEALS CONCERNS REGARDING THE DEFENSE WASTE PROCESSING FACILITY AT SAVANNAH RIVER

A recent [report](#) by the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) identified various safety concerns regarding defense waste reprocessing at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The concerns raised in the report have been conveyed to DOE and SRS managers who have since begun taking steps to remedy these concerns.

The findings listed in the report include concerns over the melter off-gas system, a key component of the reprocessing system which chemically processes the waste into an immobilized molten form that is

then cooled and stored in steel canisters. Other concerns included flammable gas analysis and control, the melter feed rate, better evaluation of the available safety controls, improved documentation, and concerns over the gas generation rate, retention rate, release rate, and mechanisms.

The Board requested a follow-up report within 90 days to address these concerns along with a plan describing the path forward. The report said SRS is making progress in implementing a path forward.

INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORTS

Subcontract Administration at Select M&O Contractors

A July audit [report](#) by the IG selected the National Nuclear Security Administration's Kansas City Plant (Kansas City) to review whether the management and operating (M&O) contractors administered their subcontracts in accordance with DOE regulations.

The report found that the Kansas City office did not adequately report justifications to awarding subcontractors non-competitively. The contracting officer had operated out of compliance with DOE regulations because Kansas City's Procurement Work Instructions allowed such action. The report recommends that Kansas City update its policies to reflect current regulations under the Work for Others agreement. Updating the policy would also allow the contractor to document his/her justification in the future when awarding a contract.

NNSA's Kansas City Plant concurred with the report's recommendations and will begin taking steps forward to documenting justifications for sole-source contract awards.

Treatment of Salt Waste at the Savannah River Site

On August 6, a [report](#) was issued as a result of a two year audit to determine whether DOE had effectively managed its key waste treatment facility at the Savannah River Site. Salt waste removal and treatment is critical in successfully completing the liquid waste mission and overall environmental

cleanup at Savannah River. The report found that the cost of the Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF) project had increased by \$1.4 billion to date and is now 9 years behind schedule, pushing the start date out to at least December 2018.

Due to budget constraints, DOE has only been able to treat minimal amounts of salt waste even after extending its interim salt waste processing program. In 2014, an estimated 551,000 gallons out of the 37 million gallons of waste were processed.

Furthermore, significant budget constraints and scheduled delays have resulted in the suspension of the SCIX system, a vital supplemental salt waste processing capability that had the potential to provide significant additional treatment of waste at the site.

The report recommended that DOE move forward with making SWPF fully operational by continuing its interim salt waste processing program and keeping within the budget by addressing the FY2016 funding shortfall. The report also suggested that the processing program be maintained as a standby facility in a few years as an option to help process additional waste should SWPF experience further operational issues. Finally, programs such as SCIX should be considered in the long term should SWPF encounter operating challenges in processing its targeted 9 to 12 million gallons of waste per year.



Contracts

Deep Borehole Field Test: Site and Characterization Borehole Investigations

Status: RFP issued July 8

Response: September 9 at 7:00 PM EST

For more information, click [here](#).

The Deep Borehole Field Test project is meant to conduct research and development to assess the viability of deep borehole disposal as an alternative for the disposal of smaller DOE-managed waste forms.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORTS



Modernizing the Nuclear Security Enterprise

A recent [report](#) by GAO found that improvement in the transparency of budget materials presented to Congress would help NNSA acquire the funding it needs to meet its infrastructure goals. NNSA must currently overcome a \$3.6 billion deferred maintenance backlog.

Although certain near-term budget estimates for modernization efforts have increased, other budget estimates have continued to fall below internal estimates. For example, plans to refurbish the B61 bomb and W88 warhead align with NNSA's estimated cost ranges, yet other programs such as the near-term budget estimates for the cruise missile life extension program do not align with NNSA's 2015 annual budget estimate.

GAO internally reviewed NNSA's 2014 and 2015 budget materials and found that there was a lack of transparency in the agency's budget request. Budget requests are reviewed by members of Congress who make decisions on funding based off their understanding of how the budget request aligns with program goals.

Addressing the shortfalls in funding can ultimately help NNSA overcome its backlog. GAO's report concludes that future budget materials should better communicate the risks to programs if budget estimates continue to fall below internal estimates. That way, Congress can better understand funding requests to make more sound budgeting decisions.

TODD SHRADER TO LEAD CARLSBAD FIELD OFFICE

Todd Shrader has been selected as the next Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) Manager, Assistant Secretary Regalbuto announced in an email on August 31. Shrader is very experienced in transuranic waste packaging and disposal, engineering for underground repository environments, project management, and safe conduct of operations. He has previously served as director of the DOE HQ office responsible for supporting Hanford's Office of River Protection, as a project manager for the

Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, and various positions at the Hanford Site.

Shrader earned a bachelor of science in mechanical engineering from the University of Florida and a master's of engineering from North Carolina State University. According to the email, he is planning to visit the site the week of September 14 to begin planning the transition to his new role. The site's previous acting manager, Dana Bryson, is retiring from federal service effective October 2.



Daughters of
HANFORD

Check out Daughters of Hanford, a project that highlights women's perspectives of the Hanford nuclear site. The project offers a cross-section of politicians, leaders, and environmental cleanup advocates - all women who were part of history and the future talent putting their minds on the nuclear site's toughest problems. More information [here](#).

2015 Congressional Calendar

	Senate in session
	Both chambers in session
	Both chambers in recess
	Federal holiday

September

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11
14	15 Rosh Hashanah ends (begins 9/13)	16	17	18
21	22 Yom Kippur begins	23 Yom Kippur Ends	24	25
28	29	30		

October

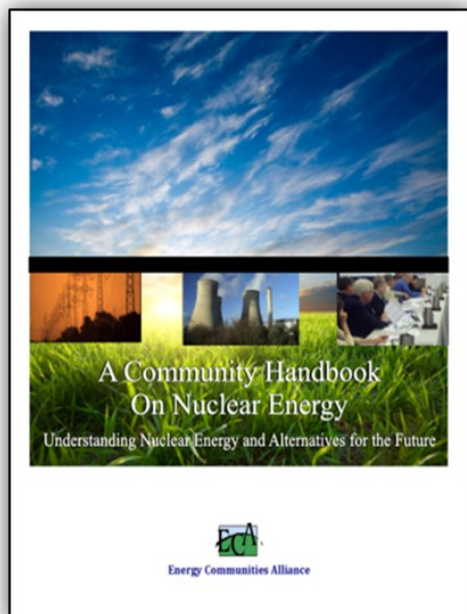
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12 Columbus Day	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

November

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11 Veterans Day	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving	27
30				

December

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7 Hanukkah begins (12/6)	8	9	10	11
14 Hanukkah ends	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day
28	29	30	31	



NEWLY RELEASED AND UPDATED:

A Community Handbook on Nuclear Energy:
Understanding Nuclear Energy and Alternatives for
the Future

To receive your free copy, please send an e-mail to
sharon.worley@energyca.org

2015 Calendar of Events



July 31 – September 7	U.S. House Summer Recess
August 8 – September 7	U.S. Senate Summer Recess
September – October	Commission to Review the Effectiveness of the National Energy Laboratories reports to Congress and the Energy Department
September 8	Congress Reconvenes
September 22-23	Project on Nuclear Issues 2015 Fall Conference at Pacific Northwest
September 28	ECA Peer Exchange on Contracting throughout the EM Complex
September 29-30	DOE National Cleanup Workshop, more information here
October 1	Start of FY 2016
November 18-20th	DOE Intergovernmental Meeting in New Orleans, LA. For more information, contact ECA Staff.
December 14	75 th Anniversary of the discovery of Plutonium



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